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AGRICULTURAL MEMORANDUM NO 425

PEAK HATCH DATES OF NEMATODE LARVAE IN SUMMER

L P SMITH

Mr R J Thomas, Newcastle University has provided pasture larval counts at several dates during the years 1967 - 71. The peak hatch date varied from mid July to mid August.

The meteorological factor with most influence appeared to be the length of time that the grass surface was wet. Using 12 hr rainfall totals from Acklington, close to the Cockle Park test plots, estimates were made of this factor in units of 6 hours. The results were:

	Wetness Units				
Period	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
15 April - 30 April	7	16	13	12	13
- 31 May	66	45	59	29	42
- 30 June	82	71	78	45	76
- 10 July	85	85	86	54	79
- 15 July	91	96	87	55	79
- 20 July	99	107	87	63	83
- 25 July	100		89	74	100
- 31 July			97	84	107
- 5 Aug			101	84	116
- 10 Aug				88	
- 15 Aug				91	
- 20 Aug				100	
Peak Date	July 26	July 16	Aug 5	Aug 19	Aug 2
Count to Peak Date	100	100	101	98	108

The soil temperatures in June 1971 were the lowest of the 5 years, those in June 1970 were the highest.

This suggests that 25 days (600 hours) of moist conditions are a necessary factor.

Any comments or criticism on this paper should be referred to the author.

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